

Wilmette Police Department

NEWS CONFERENCE

March 3, 2009
9:30am

Deputy Chief Brian M. King
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Deceased: Christopher Eugene Motes, DOB 6-3-91, Age 17
Kathryn D. Motes, DOB 11-30-58, Age 50
Richard C. Wiley, DOB 1-21-55, Age 54

My Name is Brian King and I am a Deputy Chief of the Wilmette Police Department.

I would like to begin by expressing the Police Department's and the Village of Wilmette's sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased. To surviving family and friends, we convey our deepest condolences.

Yesterday, Monday March 2nd at approximately 1:30 p.m., Wilmette Police Department responded to a request for a well-being check at a home located at 826 Greenleaf. After officers were unable to make contact with anyone inside the home, they made a forced entry.

Upon entering the residence, the officers found three individuals,

- An adult male, identified as Richard Wiley, a 55 year old resident of the home.
- An adult female, identified as Kathryn Wiley-Motes, a 51 year old resident of the home.
- A teenaged male, identified as Christopher Motes, a 17 year old resident of the home.

Kathryn Wiley-Motes was found in a second floor bedroom with a gunshot wound to the head.

Christopher Motes was found in a second floor bathroom with a gunshot wound to the head.

Richard Wiley was found in a second floor bedroom with an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

What we believe to be the murder weapon was found next to Richard Wiley. It was a Civil War replica black-powder muzzle-loading. While we are in the process of tracing

the origin of this weapon, our information indicates that Christopher Motes possessed a valid State of Illinois Firearms Owners Identification card issued the Illinois State Police. Given Christopher's interest in Civil War reenactment, we believe that the weapon may have had some relationship to that interest, but this aspect of the case is still under review. The barrel of this musket had also apparently been sawed off by Richard Wiley.

Information gathered at this stage of the investigation suggests that both Christopher and Kathryn were killed on Saturday February 28th, sometime after 2:30 in the afternoon.

We believe that Richard Wiley took his own life sometime Sunday night.

This time frame is based on evidence from the scene, canvassing of the neighborhood, and a written account of the murders that was left by Richard Wiley prior to his taking his own life.

A lengthy hand-written note was left at the scene by Mr. Wiley. The contents of that note, together with witness statements about the last time they saw the victims, leads us to believe that Mr. Wiley killed his wife and step son on Saturday afternoon, and then committed suicide on Sunday.

Mr. Wiley's account suggests that Kathryn was killed during an argument, and Christopher was killed after that. Richard Wiley indicated in the note that he would not go back to prison.

There are no apparent signs of a struggle that preceded the shooting and there are no signs of forced entry to the home.

Forensic specialists worked yesterday and last night at the house. They remain at the scene today.

The Police Department had not received any prior complaints from this residence concerning domestic violence or similar offenses. There had never been an order of protection issued and, to our knowledge, there had not been violence previously in this home.

We would like to thank the members of the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force and their evidence technicians for assisting us in this investigation.

We will make further information available to you as it becomes known to us.